

IRP Services

- Civilian oversight of law enforcement and other county departments
- Training in conflict resolution
- Complaint management consultation
- Public information, education and referrals
- Independent inquiries, research and investigations

What can the IRP do?

- Conduct transparent fact-finding initiatives
- Mediate disputes between the county and citizens
- Make recommendations to help improve county services.

Community Outreach Efforts

The IRP wants the community to know about civilian oversight in Miami-Dade County. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving outreach materials or would like to arrange for a presentation at a school, place of worship or other community meeting or forum.

Independent Review Panel

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Please check our website,
www.miamidade.gov/irp
for recent reports and informative updates.

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Independent Review Panel

"Fact Finding and Dispute Resolution"



Mission

To contribute to the delivery of
excellent public services
through external community
oversight of Miami-Dade
County Departments.



IRP

The Independent Review Panel (IRP) addresses citizen complaints involving the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) and other Miami-Dade County government departments.

The Panel is comprised of nine volunteers from the community who hold public hearings, striving to be objective and fair to all.

Why file a complaint?

The IRP works to ensure Miami-Dade County is accountable and responsive to the public, and all complaints receive a fair investigation and hearing. It listens to the evidence and determines the facts. It is an open and public process independent of the Miami-Dade Police Department and County Administration.

By bringing your complaints to the attention of the IRP, problems with specific officers or employees, or county department policies, can be brought to light. Public input is essential to help County Departments better serve the needs of the community.

What is a Complaint?

An allegation of significant wrongdoing made by a person in the community against a Miami-Dade County employee or department.

Examples:

- Excessive use of force
- Use of discourteous or demeaning language
- Improper stop, arrest or search and seizure
- Inadequate investigation
- Racial profiling
- Improper procedures
- Misuse or abuse of authority
- Negligence

Suggestions for Filing a Complaint

FIRST

- **Try to resolve the problem with the Department**
- Be clear and respectful; avoid insults and threats.
- Determine exactly what the problem is and what remedy you are seeking.
- Ask to speak with a supervisor if staff is unable to help.
- Find out what information the agency needs to resolve the problem.
- Keep records of all contacts you have with a department. Record names of staff and dates of conversations.

IF THE PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED

- **Write It Down**
Be clear and to the point about the problem. Note what you have done to try to resolve the problem. State what remedy you are seeking.
- **Remember the 5-W's**
 1. Who (Names of all involved individuals, including witnesses)
 2. What (Detailed explanation of the incident)
 3. When (Time and date of the incident)
 4. Where (Location of the incident)
 5. Wrongdoing (Be specific about allegations of wrongdoing.)
- **Focus On Facts**
Be specific about what happened and what was said.
- **Provide evidence**
Witnesses, documents, anything that supports your views about the wrongdoing. Provide copies of all documents you receive from or provide to a department.
- **Contact the IRP**

The Complaint Process

Complaints are accepted in several forms; US mail, Email, fax, in person or by telephone. Complaints may be anonymous. Once submitted, the complaint process begins:

- Complaints are screened by IRP Staff.
- Complaints involving serious and substantial wrongdoing or misconduct are referred to the involved department for investigation. Serious complaints against law enforcement officers are sent to Internal Affairs for investigation.
- When the involved department has completed its investigation, it sends a report to the IRP.
- IRP staff carefully review the department's report and provide you with a written response.
- If you are not satisfied with the department's investigation, you may request that the IRP conduct a public review.
- The first step in the public review is a Dispute Resolution Committee mediation meeting with you and the involved department.
- The final step is a public Panel Meeting to conclude fact-finding and make recommendations.

The Panel distributes its findings and recommendations to the Department Director, County Manager, County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners.

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